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COMIC SHOP NEWS™



CANTO

Meet Canto, the Well-Versed Hero

Fantasy has its share of selfless heroes, from Arthur to Frodo to Dorothy to Harry. This summer, *David M. Booher* and *Drew Zucker* add the noble newcomer Canto to that list.

"Canto is a brand-new, all-ages fantasy adventure about a little tin hero in search of a heart," writer and co-creator *David M. Booher* said. "In this dark and wondrous world, Canto's people have been enslaved. They once had hearts... now they have clocks. Although they're forbidden to love, Canto loves a little tin girl. When slavers damage her clock, he must go on an epic journey to save her by bringing back her heart."

"Each chapter brings Canto face to face with new dangers and one step closer to unraveling the mystery of his people's enslavement. In the end... well, I won't spoil it. Suffice to say, the ending is both epic and unexpected. Fans of fantasies like *Wizard of Oz* and *Lord of the Rings* will find lots to love about Canto!"

"Canto is a tiny hero in a big world," artist and co-creator *Drew Zucker* added. "Canto's race of tin people are forbidden to love or have names, but Canto does both. Once Canto begins his journey, as the audience, we get to go on this huge adventure with this tiny hero."

The origins of *Canto* go back several years. "I did the initial sketch of Canto for a sketch blog a few years ago," Zucker said, "and the basic structure I had laid out for the story was both more adult and complicated from an execution standpoint. David had approached me about doing a project together while I wrapping up another book, and just on a whim I sent him *Canto* with my basic idea of what the story would be. As it turns out he is a massive *Wizard of Oz* fan—which I didn't know at the time—and he just ran with it and made the story not only something a bit more manageable and marketable but also his own."

"Drew's design was so unbelievably cool, I knew within about four seconds that we needed to tell this little creature's story," Booher continued. "We worked really closely to develop Canto, his world, and his quest."

Each new creature concept Drew sent over was more incredible than the last, which pushed me to come up with crazier creatures and ideas. I can confidently say the story wouldn't exist without Drew, or our incredible colorist *Vittorio Astone* and expert letterer *Deron Bennett*.

The intriguing concept of a clockwork heart—as with almost anything clockwork—harkens to an older time, and adds a hint of steampunk to the concept. "That's one thing I love about *The Wizard of Oz*," Booher said. "There are witches and magic shoes and talking scarecrows, but there's

also a clockwork man and a contraption that produces holograms. *Stephen King* did something like that with his *Dark Tower* series, which I absolutely love. There's something mysterious and wonderful about a world like Canto's that has both machines and magic."

"Like David said, the idea of machines and magic is a nice touch, and I think

sleeves. I was also a full-on '80s kid, and the 12-year-old in me has never outgrown the creepy and wonderful imagery like the Skeksis from *The Dark Crystal*, Gmork the wolf from *Neverending Story*, or the junk lady from *Labyrinth*. I channeled the feel of those stories into Canto's world for what I hope is a timeless but brand-new story."

"The touchstones we also went back to were *Dante's Inferno* and *The Wizard of Oz*, which had

both been established very early on as being the inspiration for the project," Zucker said. "I think that's why it feels like it fits into those time periods so much. I also wanted a challenge after doing my last book (*The House*), which was very reference heavy; I wanted to see if I could do a book that was not only different, but challenged me to be more creative."

The world of *Canto* is elaborate, expansive, and evocative—almost too much so for a single six-issue series! "You're right—Canto's world is sprawling!" Booher agreed. "Readers will get to see quite a bit in this series—and there's *lots* more to discover. We also set out to tell a story without a ton of front-loaded world-building. Canto knows nothing about his world, so readers will discover the wonders out there just as he does—one step at a time."

"Yes, Canto's world is *huge*, and there is a lot of unexplored territory," Zucker said. "Our goal, though, wasn't to overload people but to organically have them discover the world in a way that kept the story front and center, but hinted that there is a lot more out there."

At its core, though, *Canto* is a quest saga—one of the earliest forms of fantasy literature. "Epic quest is a great way to describe *Canto*," Zucker said. "It's a term that David and I come back to a lot, not just in the story and themes, but also in making sure the visuals help to convey that. Canto's quest will certainly be epic, and we're hoping everyone finds the little guy's heart and drive to be equally epic."

"I've mentioned lots of different influences, but probably the one I go back to daily is *Lord of the Rings*," Booher said. "That idea of one unlikely creature on an impossible quest that leads to an epic showdown to save the world. Canto may be small, but his quest will definitely be epic!"

Canto #1, a \$3.99 comic from IDW publishing, is scheduled for June 26th release.

by Cliff Biggers



it goes back to what you said about the book feeling like it belongs with 19th- or 20th-century literature," Zucker said. "The idea of magic existing with technology helps make the world feel exciting."

It's no wonder that *Canto* has a timeless fantasy quality that would make it seem right at home on a shelf of classic fantasy adventures. "There were so many inspirations!" Booher said. "Our most obvious influences were *Wizard of Oz* and *Dante's Inferno*, which we proudly wear on our

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Lion Forges Ahead With Oni Merger

Polarity, the parent company of comics publisher Lion Forge, has announced a merger of that company and Oni Press, with Polarity becoming the majority owner of the combined company. *James Lucas Jones* will serve as president and publisher, and the Oni team will take the lead on creative and business operations.

"We want to build on our strength as a go-to destination for creators, grow our culture as an employee-first organization, and reinforce our commitment to our industry partners and friends," Jones said. "In an increasingly competitive marketplace, where the business of comics and graphic novels is rapidly evolving, this merger is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our two companies to pool our resources for one goal: to create the finest comics and graphic novels for everyone."

"We were very impressed with the culture established at Oni, which continues with *James [Lucas Jones]*, *Charlie [Chu]*, *Sarah [Gaydos]*, and *Margot [Wood]* leading the team," Polarity president *Edward Hamati* said. The combined company will handle editorial, marketing, production, and operations out of Portland, OR, the city that Oni had called home for many years. *Sarah Gaydos* will serve as editor-in-chief of the new company.

Look for more information in the very near future regarding changes in the newly merged company's portfolio of titles.

2019 Eisner Award Nominees Announced

Comic-Con International has announced the nominations for the 2019 *Will Eisner* Comic Industry Awards, as chosen by a blue-ribbon panel of judges—and what a list it is!

Image was the most-nominated publisher with 19 nominees (with 11 shared); DC followed close behind with 17 (plus 7 shared). *Tom King* was the most nominated creator with five nominations.

Comic book industry professionals are eligible to vote on the awards until the June 14th deadline. The results will be announced at Comic-Con International on Friday, July 19th.

This year's nominees include:

Best Short Story

- "Get Naked in Barcelona," by *Steven T. Seagle* & *Emei Olivia Burrell*, in *Get Naked* (Image)
- "The Ghostlygun Tinies," by *Matt Cohen* & *Marc Palm*, in *MAD* #4 (DC)
- "Here I Am," by *Shaun Tan*, in *I Feel Machine* (SelfMadeHero)
- "Life During Interesting Times," by *Mike Dawson* (The Nib), <https://thenib.com/great-est-generation-interesting-times>

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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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- "Supply Chains," by *Peter & Maria Hoey*, in *Coin-Op* #7 (Coin-Op Books)
- "The Talk of the Saints," by *Tom King* & *Jason Fabok*, in *Swamp Thing Winter Special* (DC)

Best Single Issue/Oneshot

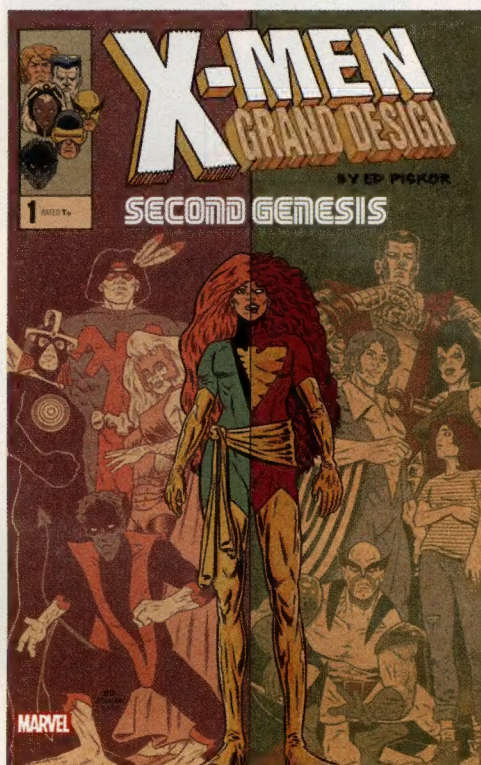
- *Beneath the Dead Oak Tree*, by *Emily Carroll* (ShortBox)
- *Black Hammer: Cthu-Louise*, by *Jeff Lemire* & *Emi Lenox* (Dark Horse)
- *No Better Words*, by *Carolyn Nowak* (Silver Sprocket)
- *Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man* #310, by *Chip Zdarsky* (Marvel)
- *The Terrible Elisabeth Dumm Against the Devils in Suits*, by *Arabson*, translated by *James Robinson* (IHQ Studio/Image)

Best Continuing Series

- *Batman*, by *Tom King* et al (DC)
- *Black Hammer: Age of Doom*, by *Jeff Lemire*, *Dean Ormiston*, & *Rich Tommaso* (Dark Horse)
- *Gasolina*, by *Sean Mackiewicz* & *Niko Walter* (Skybound/Image)
- *Giant Days*, by *John Allison*, *Max Sarin*, & *Julia Madrigal* (BOOM! Box)
- *The Immortal Hulk*, by *Al Ewing*, *Joe Bennett*, & *Ruy José* (Marvel)
- *Runaways*, by *Rainbow Rowell* & *Kris Anka* (Marvel)

Best Limited Series

- *Batman: White Knight*, by *Sean Murphy* (DC)
- *Eternity Girl*, by *Magdalene Visaggio* & *Sonny Liew* (Vertigo/DC)
- *Exit Stage Left: The Snagglepuss Chronicles*, by *Mark Russell*, *Mike Feehan*, & *Mark Morales* (DC)
- *Mister Miracle*, by *Tom King* & *Mitch Gerads* (DC)
- *X-Men: Grand Design: Second Genesis*, by *Ed Piskor* (Marvel)



Best New Series

- *Bitter Root*, by *David Walker*, *Chuck Brown*, & *Sanford Greene* (Image)
- *Crowded*, by *Christopher Sebela*, *Ro Stein*, & *Ted Brandt* (Image)
- *Gideon Falls*, by *Jeff Lemire* & *Andrea Sorrentino* (Image)
- *Isola*, by *Brenden Fletcher* & *Karl Kerschl* (Image)
- *Man-Eaters*, by *Chelsea Cain* & *Kate Niemczyk* (Image)
- *Skyward*, by *Joe Henderson* & *Lee Garbett* (Image)

Best Publication for Early Readers (up to age 8)

- *Johnny Boo and the Ice Cream Computer*, by *James Kochalka* (Top Shelf/IDW)
- *Petals*, by *Gustavo Borges* (KaBOOM!)
- *Peter & Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths*, by *Graham Annable* (First Second)
- *This Is a Taco!* By *Andrew Cangelose* & *Josh Shipley* (CubHouse/Lion Forge)
- *Tiger vs Nightmare*, by *Emily Tetri* (First Second)

Best Publication for Kids (ages 9–12)

- *Aquicorn Cove*, by *Katie O'Neill* (Oni)
- *Be Prepared*, by *Vera Brosgol* (First Second)
- *The Cardboard Kingdom*, by *Chad Sell* (Knopf/Random House Children's Books)
- *Crush*, by *Svetlana Chmakova* (JY/Yen Press)
- *The Divided Earth*, by *Faith Erin Hicks* (First Second)

Best Publication for Teens (ages 13–17)

- *All Summer Long*, by *Hope Larson* (Farrar Straus Giroux)
- *Gumballs*, by *Erin Nations* (Top Shelf/IDW)
- *Middlewest*, by *Skottie Young* & *Jorge Corona* (Image)
- *Norway, Book 1: The Black Bull of Norway*, by *Cat Seaton* & *Kit Seaton* (Image)

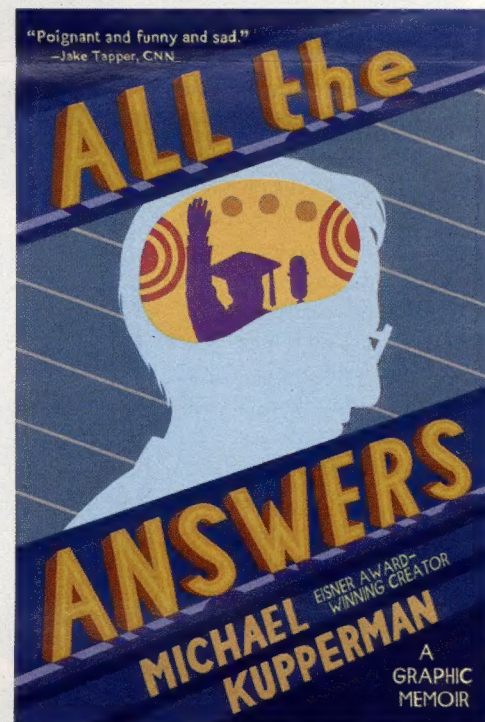
- *The Prince and the Dressmaker*, by *Jen Wang* (First Second)
- *Watersnakes*, by *Tony Sandoval*, translated by *Lucas Marangon* (Magnetic/Lion Forge)

Best Humor Publication

- *Get Naked*, by *Steven T. Seagle* et al (Image)
- *Giant Days*, by *John Allison*, *Max Sarin*, & *Julia Madrigal* (BOOM! Box)
- *MAD*, edited by *Bill Morrison* (DC)
- *A Perfect Failure: Fanta Bukowski 3*, by *Noah Van Sciver* (Fantagraphics)
- *Woman World*, by *Aminder Dhaliwal* (Drawn & Quarterly)

Best Anthology

- *Femme Magnifique: 50 Magnificent Women Who Changed the World*, edited by *Shelly Bond* (Black Crown/IDW)
- *Puerto Rico Strong*, edited by *Marco Lopez*, *Desiree Rodriguez*, *Hazel Newlevant*, *Derek Ruiz*, & *Neil Schwartz* (Lion Forge)
- *Twisted Romance*, edited by *Alex de Campi* (Image)
- *Where We Live: A Benefit for the Survivors in Las Vegas*, edited by *Will Dennis*, curated by *J. H. Williams III* & *Wendy Wright-Williams* (Image)



Best Reality-Based Work

- *All the Answers: A Graphic Memoir*, by *Michael Kupperman* (Gallery 13)
- *All the Sad Songs*, by *Summer Pierre* (Retrofit/Big Planet)
- *Is This Guy For Real? The Unbelievable Andy Kaufman*, by *Box Brown* (First Second)
- *Monk!* by *Youssef Daoudi* (First Second)
- *One Dirty Tree*, by *Noah Van Sciver* (Uncivilized Books)

Best Graphic Album—New

- *Bad Girls*, by *Alex de Campi* & *Victor Santos* (Gallery 13)
- *Come Again*, by *Nate Powell* (Top Shelf/IDW)
- *Green Lantern: Earth One Vol 1*, by *Corinna Bechko* & *Gabriel Hardman* (DC)

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- *Homunculus*, by Joe Sparrow (ShortBox)
- *My Heroes Have Always Been Junkies*, by Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips (Image)
- *Sabrina*, by Nick Drnaso (Drawn & Quarterly)

Best Graphic Album—Reprint

- *Berlin*, by Jason Lutes (Drawn & Quarterly)
- *Girl Town*, by Carolyn Nowak (Top Shelf/IDW)
- *Upgrade Soul*, by Ezra Clayton Daniels (Lion Forge)
- *The Vision HC*, by Tom King, Gabriel Hernandez Walta, & Michael Walsh (Marvel)
- *Young Frances*, by Hartley Lin (AdHouse Books)



Best Adaptation from Another Medium

- *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*, adapted by Ari Folman & David Polonsky (Pantheon)
- "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley, in *Frankenstein: Junji Ito Story Collection*, adapted by Junji Ito, translated by Jocelyne Allen (VIZ Media)
- *Out in the Open* by Jesús Carraso, adapted by Javi Rey, translated by Lawrence Schimel (SelfMadeHero)
- *Speak: The Graphic Novel*, by Laurie Halse Anderson & Emily Carroll (Farrar Straus Giroux)
- *To Build a Fire: Based on Jack London's Classic Story*, by Chabouté (Gallery 13)

Best US Edition of International Material

- *About Betty's Boob*, by Véro Cazot & Julie Rocheleau, translated by Edward Gauvin (Archaia/BOOM!)
- *Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World*, by Pénélope Bagieu (First Second)
- *Herakles Book 1*, by Edouard Cour, translated by Jeremy Melloul (Magnetic/Lion Forge)
- *Niourk*, by Stefan Wul & Olivier Vatine, translated by Brandon Kander & Diana Schutz (Dark Horse)
- *A Sea of Love*, by Wilfrid Lupano & Grégory Panaccione (Magnetic/Lion Forge)

Best US Edition of International Material—Asia

- *Abara: Complete Deluxe Edition*, by Tsutomu Nihei, translated by Sheldon Drzka (VIZ Media)
- *Dead Dead Demon's Dededede Destruction*, by Inio Asano, translated by John Werry (VIZ Media)

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- *Laid-Back Camp*, by Afro, translated by Amber Tamosaitis (Yen Press)
- *My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder*, by Nie Jun, translated by Edward Gauvin (Graphic Universe/Lerner)
- *Tokyo Tarareba Girls*, by Akiko Higashimura (Kodansha)

Best Archival Collection/Project—Strips

- *Pogo Vol 5: Out of This World at Home*, by Walt Kelly, edited by Mark Evanier & Eric Reynolds (Fantagraphics)
- *Sky Masters of the Space Force: The Complete Sunday Strips in Color (1959–1960)*, by Jack Kirby, Wally Wood et al, edited by Ferran Delgado (Amigo Comics)
- *Star Wars: Classic Newspaper Strips Vol 3*, by Archie Goodwin & Al Williamson, edited by Dean Mullaney (Library of American Comics/IDW)
- *The Temple of Silence: Forgotten Words and Worlds of Herbert Crowley*, by Justin Duerr (Beehive Books)
- *Thimble Theatre and the Pre-Popeye Comics of EC Segar*, edited by Peter Maresca (Sunday Press)

Best Archival Collection/Project—Comic Books

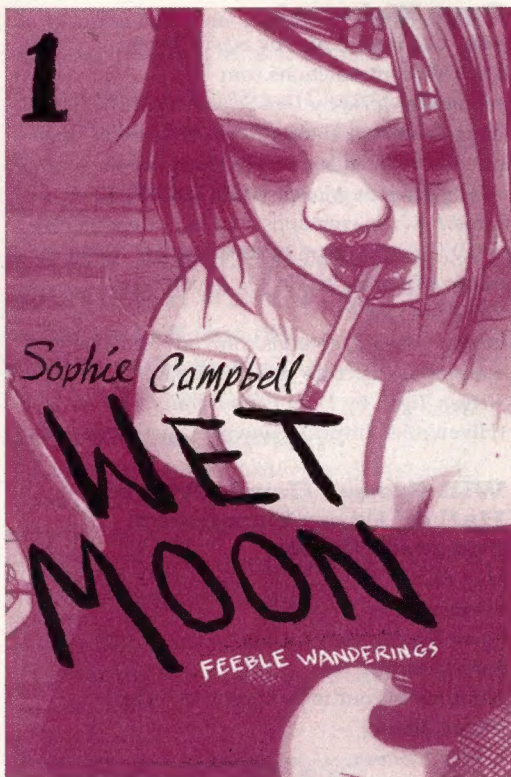
- *Action Comics: 80 Years of Superman Deluxe Edition*, edited by Paul Levitz (DC)
- *Bill Sienkiewicz's Mutants and Moon Knights... And Assassins... Artifact Edition*, edited by Scott Dunbier (IDW)
- *Dirty Plotte: The Complete Julie Doucet* (Drawn & Quarterly)
- *Madman Quarter Century Shindig*, by Mike Allred, edited by Chris Ryall (IDW)
- *Terry Moore's Strangers in Paradise Gallery Edition*, edited by Joseph Melchior & Bob Chapman (Abstract Studio/Graphitti Designs)
- *Will Eisner's A Contract with God: Curator's Collection*, edited by John Lind (Kitchen Sink/Dark Horse)

Best Writer

- Alex de Campi, *Bad Girls* (Gallery 13); *Twisted Romance* (Image)
- Tom King, *Batman, Mister Miracle, Heroes in Crisis, Swamp Thing Winter Special* (DC)
- Jeff Lemire, *Black Hammer: Age of Doom, Doctor Star and the Kingdom of Lost Tomorrows, Quantum Age* (Dark Horse); *Descender, Gideon Falls, Royal City* (Image)



- Mark Russell, *Exit Stage Left: The Snagglepuss Chronicles, Green Lantern/Huckleberry Hound, Lex Luthor/Porky Pig* (DC); *Lone Ranger* (Dynamite)
- Kelly Thompson, *Nancy Drew* (Dynamite); *Hawkeye, Jessica Jones, Mr & Mrs X, Rogue & Gambit, Uncanny X-Men, West Coast Avengers* (Marvel)
- Chip Zdarsky, *Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man, Marvel 2-in-One* (Marvel)



Best Writer/Artist

- Sophie Campbell, *Wet Moon* (Oni)
- Nick Drnaso, *Sabrina* (Drawn & Quarterly)
- David Lapham, *Lodger* (Black Crown/IDW); *Stray Bullets* (Image)
- Nate Powell, *Come Again* (Top Shelf/IDW)
- Tony Sandoval, *Watersnakes* (Magnetic/Lion Forge)
- Jen Wang, *The Prince and the Dressmaker* (First Second)

Best Penciller/Inker or Penciller/Inker Team

- Matías Bergara, *Coda* (BOOM!)
- Mitch Gerads, *Mister Miracle* (DC)
- Karl Kerschl, *Isola* (Image)
- Sonny Liew, *Eternity Girl* (Vertigo/DC)
- Sean Phillips, *Kill or Be Killed, My Heroes Have Always Been Junkies* (Image)
- Yanick Paquette, *Wonder Woman Earth One Vol 2* (DC)

Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)

- Lee Bermejo, *Batman: Damned* (DC)
- Carita Lupatelli, *Izuna Book 2* (Humanoids)
- Dustin Nguyen, *Descender* (Image)
- Gregory Panaccione, *A Sea of Love* (Magnetic/Lion Forge)
- Tony Sandoval, *Watersnakes* (Magnetic/Lion Forge)

Best Cover Artist (for multiple covers)

- Jen Bartel, *Blackbird* (Image); *Submerged* (Vault)
- Nick Derington, *Mister Miracle* (DC)
- Karl Kerschl, *Isola* (Image)
- Joshua Middleton, *Batgirl and Aquaman variants* (DC)
- Julian Tedesco, *Hawkeye, Life of Captain Marvel* (Marvel)

Best Coloring

- Jordie Bellaire, *Batgirl, Batman* (DC); *The Divided Earth* (First Second); *Days of Hate, Dead Hand, Head Lopper, Redlands* (Image); *Shuri, Doctor Strange* (Marvel)
- Tamra Bonvillain, *Alien 3* (Dark Horse); *Batman, Doom Patrol* (DC); *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, Multiple Man* (Marvel)
- Nathan Fairbairn, *Batman, Batgirl, Birds of Prey, Wonder Woman Earth One Vol. 2* (DC); *Die!Die!Die!* (Image)
- Matt Hollingsworth, *Batman: White Knight* (DC); *Seven to Eternity, Wytches* (Image)
- Matt Wilson, *Black Cloud, Paper Girls, The Wicked + The Divine* (Image); *The Mighty Thor, Runaways* (Marvel)

Best Lettering

- David Aja, *Seeds* (Berger Books/Dark Horse)
- Jim Campbell, *Breathless, Calexit, Grave-trancers, Snap Flash Hustle, Survival Fetish, The Wilds* (Black Mask); *Abbott, Alice: Dream to Dream, Black Badge, Clueless, Coda, Fence, Firefly, Giant Days, Grass Kings, Lumberjanes: The Infernal Compass, Low Road West, Sparrowhawk* (BOOM!); *Angelic* (Image); *Wasted Space* (Vault)
- Alex de Campi, *Bad Girls* (Gallery 13); *Twisted Romance* (Image)
- Jared Fletcher, *Batman: Damned* (DC); *The Gravediggers Union, Moonshine, Paper Girls, Southern Bastards* (Image)
- Todd Klein, *Black Hammer: Age of Doom, Neil Gaiman's A Study in Emerald* (Dark Horse); *Batman: White Night* (DC); *Eternity Girl, Books of Magic* (Vertigo/DC); *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The Tempest* (Top Shelf/IDW)



Best Comics-Related Periodical/Journalism

- *Back Issue*, edited by Michael Eury (TwoMorrrows)
- *The Columbus Scribbler*, edited by Brian Canini, columbusscribbler.com
- *Comicosity*, edited by Aaron Long & Matt Santori, www.comicosity.com
- *LAAB Magazine #0: Dark Matter*, edited by Ronald Wimberley & Josh O'Neill (Beehive Books)
- *PanelxPanel Magazine*, edited by Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou, panelxpanel.com

Best Comics-Related Book

- *Comic Book Implosion: An Oral History of DC Comics Circa 1978*, by Keith Dallas & John Wells (TwoMorrrows)

- **Drawn to Purpose: American Women Illustrators and Cartoonists**, by Martha H. Kennedy (University Press of Mississippi)
- **The League of Regrettable Sidekicks**, by Jon Morris (Quirk Books)
- **Mike Grell: Life Is Drawing Without an Eraser**, by Dewey Cassell with Jeff Messer (TwoMorrows)
- **Yoshitaka Amano: The Illustrated Biography—Beyond the Fantasy**, by Florent Gorges, translated by Laure Dupont & Annie Gullion (Dark Horse)

Aaron Kashtan

BETWEEN PEN AND PIXEL

Comics, Materiality,
and the Book of the Future



Best Academic/ Scholarly Work

- **Between Pen and Pixel: Comics, Materiality, and the Book of the Future**, by Aaron Kashtan (Ohio State University Press)
- **Breaking the Frames: Populism and Prestige in Comics Studies**, by Marc Singer (University of Texas Press)
- **The Goat-Getters: Jack Johnson, the Fight of the Century, and How a Bunch of Raucous Cartoonists Reinvented Comics**, by Eddie Campbell (Library of American Comics/IDW/Ohio State University Press)
- **Incorrigibles and Innocents**, by Lara Saguissag (Rutgers University Press)
- **Sweet Little C*nt: The Graphic Work of Julie Doucet**, by Anne Elizabeth Moore (Uncivilized Books)

Best Publication Design

- **A Sea of Love**, designed by Wilfrid Lupano, Grégory Panaccione, & Mike Kennedy (Magnetic/Lion Forge)
- **The Stan Lee Story Collector's Edition**, designed by Josh Baker (Taschen)
- **The Temple of Silence: Forgotten Worlds of Herbert Crowley**, designed by Paul Kepple & Max Vandenberg (Beehive Books)
- **Terry Moore's Strangers in Paradise Gallery Edition**, designed by Josh Beatman/Brainchild Studios/NYC (Abstract Studio/Graphitti Designs)
- **Will Eisner's A Contract with God: Curator's Collection**, designed by John Lind (Kitchen Sink/Dark Horse)

Best Digital Comic

- **Aztec Empire**, by Paul Guinan, Anina Bennett, & David Hahn, www.bigredhair.com/books/Aztec-empire
- **The Führer and the Tramp**, by Sean McArdle, Jon Judy, & Dexter Wee, <http://thefuhrerand->

thetramp.com

- **The Journey**, by Pablo Leon (Rewire), <https://rewire.news/article/2018/01/08/rewire-exclusive-comic-journey>
- **The Stone King**, by Kel McDonald & Tyler Crook (comiXology Originals), <https://cmxl.gy/Stone-King>
- **Umami**, by Ken Niimura (Panel Syndicate), <http://panelsyndicate.com/comics/umami>

Best Webcomic

- **The Contradictions**, by Sophie Yanow, www.thecontradictions.com
- **Lavender Jack**, by Dan Schkade (WEBTOON), https://www.webtoons.com/en/thriller/lavender-jack/list?title_no=1410&page=1
- **Let's Play**, by Mongie (WEBTOON), https://www.webtoons.com/en/romance/lets-play/list?title_no=1218&page=1
- **Lore Olympus**, by Rachel Smythe, (WEBTOON), https://www.webtoons.com/en/romance/lore-olympus/list?title_no=1320&page=1
- **Tiger, Tiger**, by Petra Erika Nordlund, (Hiveworks) <http://www.tigertigercomic.com>

Will Eisner Comic Awards Hall of Fame Nominees Judges' Choice

- Jim Aparo
 - Dave Stevens
 - June Tarpé Mills
 - Morrie Turner
- Nominees (Four to be chosen by vote)
- Brian Bolland
 - Kevin Eastman
 - José Luis Garcia-Lopez
 - Lynn Johnston
 - Jenette Kahn
 - Paul Levitz
 - Alex Nino
 - Lily Renée Peter Phillips
 - Wendy & Richard Pini
 - P. Craig Russell
 - Bill Sienkiewicz
 - Don & Maggie Thompson
 - Akira Toriyama
 - Naoki Urasawa



BATMAN: DAMNED #3 (OF 3)

Brian Azzarello (W); Lee Bermejo (A)
(DC MAR190493 \$6.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman's most baffling case brings him face to face with his worst nightmare in this highly anticipated finale!

Why Should You Care?

The most controversial miniseries in Bat-history wraps up here—and there won't be any second printings, so grab it while you can!



BLACK CAT #1

Jed MacKay (W); Travel Foreman (A)
(Marvel APR190773 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Felicia Hardy has a taste for the finer things in life... and a certain set of skills that can get her into any mansion, vault or museum to procure said finer things. But due to her actions in *Amazing Spider-Man*, Felicia's not only on the run from the police but also by the New York Thieves Guild and their boss.

Why Should You Care?

The most popular member of Spidey's supporting cast gets her own series, And Marvel's feline pretty confident it's going to appeal to a lot of Spider-Man fans.

CROW/HACK-SLASH #1

Tim Seeley (W); Tim Seeley & Jim Terry (A)
(IDW APR190642 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The crow flies. A soul is brought back. But something is wrong. Angeles Cero won't stop killing on her quest for revenge, and the bodies are piling up. Now, slasher hunter Cassie Hack and her monstrous partner Vlad are on the trail of the Crow Killer, assuming her to be one of the masked murderers they've hunted for years... But they aren't the only force trying to make the universe right again.

Why Should You Care?

Tim Seeley both writes and illustrates this series that introduces an all-new Crow—and it's only appropriate, since Seeley says without the inspiration of the Crow, there would have been no *Hack/Slash*!

CSN TOP

DC POSTER PORTFOLIO: STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU TP

Stanley "Artgerm" Lau (A)
(DC OCT180551 \$24.99)

What's the Scoop?

This collection includes twenty of Artgerm's most memorable DC covers starring Supergirl, Catwoman, Batman, Wonder Woman and more!

Why Should You Care?

What better way for DC to kick off their new *Poster Portfolio* series than with the striking art of Stanley "Artgerm" Lau, reproduced sans trade dress in 12" x 16" size on heavy cardstock paper?

DCEASED #2 (OF 6)

Tom Taylor (W); Trevor Hairsine & Stefano Gaudiano (A)
(DC APR190459 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Millions are dying every minute. Heroes and villains alike are falling. Can the Justice League unite to find a way to stop the spread of death and save humanity from extinction? Can they even save themselves? The key to survival may hinge on the last moments of one of the World's Finest Heroes...

Why Should You Care?

If you dismissed this one as "DC Zombies," you greatly underestimated the imaginative Tom Taylor (who has plenty of experience with dystopic takes on the DCU in the pages of *Injustice*) to come up with a story hook that links right into the core DCU mythos.



COMICS: JUNE

DRAWING BLOOD: SPILLED INK #2 (OF 4)

Kevin Eastman & David Avallone (W);
Kevin Eastman, Ben Bishop, & Troy Little (A)
(Eastman Studios APR191802 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

One-time mega-successful comic book creator Shane "Books" Bookman has fallen on hard times—and those times are getting even harder. With his back to the wall, Books fends off mobsters, stars in a documentary, falls in love, sells his soul... and it's only the second issue!

Why Should You Care?

Kevin Eastman's only-semi-autobiographical series continues—and part of the fun is figuring out what parts are largely true and what parts stem from Eastman's impressive imagination!



FLASH #72

Joshua Williamson (W); Howard Porter (A)
(DC APR190470 \$3.99)

FLASH #73

Joshua Williamson (W); Howard Porter (A)
(DC APR190472 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

First he gets clobbered by the Turtle, and now he has to face off against a whole Rogues Gallery of costumed zanies out to wreak havoc! If the Flash can't master his speed skills pretty quickly, this is going to be a very short superhero career...

Why Should You Care?

Don't dismiss this "Year One" as just a summary of a familiar tale. Williamson & Porter tap into familiar story elements while adding exciting new Flash-facts to the story of the Scarlet Speedster's early days. If you weren't a Flash fan before, you will be once you read this!

Comic Shop News



IGNITED #1

Mark Waid & Kwanza Osajyefo (W);
Philippe Briones (A)
(Humanoids APR191783 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

It's the first day back at Phoenix Academy High, but this year there's no back to school excitement in the air as returning students and faculty are haunted by memories of last year's horrific attack. So many friends and colleagues were lost—and some of those who survived Ignited, gaining supernatural abilities they barely understand. Little do they know this is just the beginning...

Why Should You Care?

Humanoids kicks off their new HI superhero universe with *Ignited*, co-written by Mark Waid—and Waid's just one of many major names who'll be contributing to the line as the H1 Universe rolls out.

INCREDIBLE HULK: LAST CALL #1

Peter David (W); Dale Keown (A)
(Marvel APR190789 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Bruce Banner is tired of being the Hulk. Heck, he's tired of *being*. But just when he's about to lose all hope, a miracle occurs: a fight worthy of the Incredible Hulk.

Why Should You Care?

Peter David, widely celebrated as one of the finest writers to ever chronicle the adventures of the Hulk, reunites with fan-favorite Hulk artist Dale Keown for a special oneshot that is sure to appeal to fans of the current hit *Immortal Hulk* series.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #25: YEAR OF THE VILLAIN

(DC APR190484 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Superman faces down the World Forger to save the Justice League! Can Superman withstand the might of a being that can create worlds from nothing?! Plus, with the Justice League away, Mr. Mxyzptlk's been wreaking havoc! Can anyone on Earth stand up to the fifth-dimensional menace?

Why Should You Care?

The "Sixth Dimension" story comes to a startling close in this extra-length 25th issue as the Year of the Villain approaches.

LADY MECHANIKA: SANGRE #1 (OF 5)

Joe Benitez & MM Chen (W);
Brian Ching & Joe Benitez (A)
(Benitez APR191492 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Lady Mechanika journeys to the Spanish countryside to hunt a demonic creature allegedly stalking the local baron's son, but she quickly begins to suspect there's more to the case than meets the eye.

Why Should You Care?

No one does steampunk with more heat than Joe Benitez!

SILVER SURFER: BLACK #1 (OF 5)

Donny Cates (W); Tradd Moore (A)
(Marvel APR190783 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Almost the entire galaxy's defenders have been blown through a black hole—including the Silver Surfer! Now, in order to fight back the oblivion, Surfer will have to struggle to save his own soul and not lose himself to the void in this journey that will change him forever!

Why Should You Care?

Donny Cates, who proved himself a master of Marvel's Cosmic with his work on *Thanos* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*, turns his attention to the cosmos' most beloved hero.



SPAWN #298

Todd McFarlane (W);
Jason Shawn Alexander (A)
(Image APR190026 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Get ready for Spawn vs. the full might of Heaven's newest Godsend in this lead-up to *Spawn*'s landmark 300th issue.

Why Should You Care?

If you've tried to lay your hands on recent issues of *Spawn*, you know that this series is sizzling—and this issue's cover homage to *Amazing Spider-Man* #298 is already generating a lot of buzz among McFarlane fans, so don't expect it to sit on the shelves for very long!



SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1

Jason Latour (W);
David Lafuente & Jason Latour (A)
(Marvel APR190816 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

When Spider-Gwen's dimension-hopping web-watch falls into the wrong hands, it's up to everyone's favorite wisecracking web-slinger, the wily waddler known as Spider-Ham, to save the day!

Why Should You Care?

You loved this porky li'l webspinner in *Into the Spider-Verse*, so you know you'll have to have his dimension-spanning solo adventure!

STAR WARS: AGE OF REPUBLIC—DARTH VADER #1

Greg Pak (W); Marc Laming (A)
(Marvel APR190918 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Darth Vader may be the most feared man in the galaxy. But to the proud Grand Moffs of the Empire, he's just the Emperor's apprentice, below them in the hierarchy. At what point does Darth Vader show them his true power?

Why Should You Care?

Witness Darth Vader's transition from Empire supporting cast to star in this unforgettable tale by Greg Pak, the same writer responsible for the *Age of Rebellion*/*Age of Republic* oneshots starring Boba Fett, Han Solo, Princess Leia, and others.

SUPERMAN YEAR ONE #1 (OF 3)

Frank Miller (W);
John Romita Jr. & Danny Miki (A)
(DC APR190432 \$7.99)

What's the Scoop?

From the burning world of Krypton to the bucolic fields of Kansas, the first chapter of *Superman: Year One* tracks Clark Kent's youth in Kansas, as he comes to terms with his strange powers and struggles to find his place in our world.

Why Should You Care?

Were you beginning to think that Black Label was destined to be a Batman imprint? Think again! Frank Miller & John Romita Jr. offer a compelling new take on the origin of the Man of Steel in this prestige-format limited series.



TRANSFORMERS/GHOSTBUSTERS #1

Erik Burnham (W); Dan Schoening (A)
(IDW APR190595 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

After years of civil war, the Autobots fled Cybertron, leaving their home planet in the evil clutches of Megatron and his Decepticons. Years later and millions of miles away, the Autobots pick up a Cybertronian distress signal from a mysterious planet called Earth. The ghostly signal shouldn't exist, and it'll bring Optimus Prime and his team—including brand-new Autobot Ectotron—face-to-face with... the Ghostbusters!

Why Should You Care?

Thought there was no way they could do it, didn't you? Well, think again—the Transformers-Ghostbusters meeting is about to occur, and you're gonna love it!



WOLVERINE: EXIT WOUNDS #1

Chris Claremont & others (W);
Salvador Larroca & others (A)
(Marvel APR190884 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

This all-star oneshot features a trio of untold tales of the mutant who's the best he is at what he does.

Why Should You Care?

The real news here is new Wolverine by Chris Claremont. You see, Logan isn't the only man who's the best he is at what he does...

Collected Cool: June's Best Reprint Editions

ABSOLUTE SWAMP THING BY ALAN MOORE HC VOL 1

(DC OCT180552 \$99.99)

The acclaimed Alan Moore-Stephen Bissette-John Totleben run gets the upscale *Absolute* treatment, beginning with this collection of *Saga of the Swamp Thing* #s 20-34 & Annual #2.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN EPIC COLLECTION TP: GOBLIN LIVES

(Marvel MAR191029 \$39.99)

The Stan Lee-John Romita era real hit its stride with these issues, which pit Spidey against Dr. Octopus, the Vulture, Mysterio, the Green Goblin, and more. This volume collects *Amazing Spider-Man* #s 53-67, *Spec Spider-Man Magazine* #s 1-2, and more.

BATMAN BY GRANT MORRISON OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(DC NOV180534 \$75.00)

The Dark Knight is dead... long live the Dark Knight! Grant Morrison's post-*Final Crisis* issues recast Dick Grayson and Damian Wayne as Batman and Robin, while Bruce Wayne struggles to overcome death itself! And for the first time, *Batman* #s 700-702, *Batman & Robin* #s 1-16, and *Batman: The Return of Bruce Wayne* #s 1-6 are presented in the correct reading order!



BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE OMNIBUS HC VOL 7

(DC OCT180558 \$125.00)

Batman enters the pre-code 1950s in this collection of tales from 1950 and 1951, featuring the Joker, Catwoman, the Penguin, Deadshot, and Killer Moth, among others. This volume includes tales from *Detective Comics* #s 154-173, *Batman* #s 56-66, and *World's Finest Comics* #s 43-52.

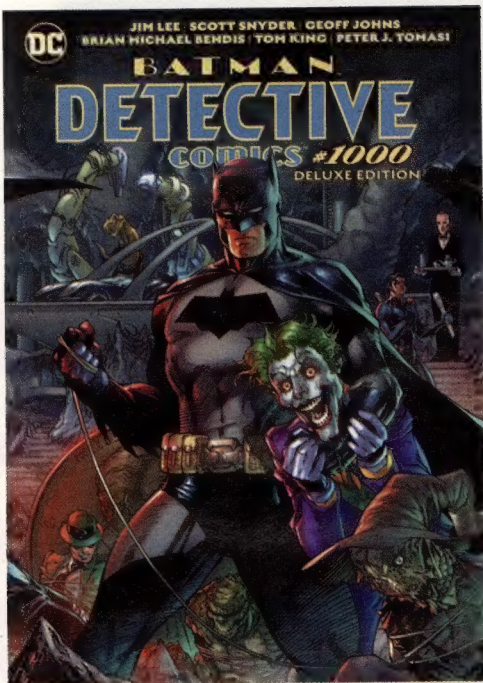
BLACKEST NIGHT OMNIBUS HC 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

(DC NOV180548 \$150.00)

In celebration of *Blackest Night*'s tenth birthday, DC offers this massive omnibus collecting *Blackest Night* #s 0-8; *Adventure Comics* #s 4, 5 & 7; *Blackest Night: Batman* #s 1-3; *Blackest Night: The Flash* #s 1-3; *Blackest Night: JSA* #s 1-3; *Blackest Night: Superman* #s 1-3; *Blackest Night: Titans* #s 1-3; *Blackest Night: Wonder Woman* #s 1-3; *Catwoman* #83, *Green Arrow* #40, *Green Lantern* #s 43-52, *Green Lantern Corps* #39-47, *Phantom Stranger* #42, *The Atom & Hawkman* #46, *The Power of Shazam!* #48, *The Question* #37, *Weird Western Tales* #71, and more!



Comic Shop News



DETECTIVE COMICS #1000 DELUXE ED HC

(DC MAR190576 \$19.99)

This collection not only features the entirety of *Detective* #1000, it also adds a new story by Robert Venditti & Steven Segovia, as well as a cover gallery of every custom variant done to celebrate this landmark 1,000th issue.

NOT BRAND ECHH COMPLETE COLLECTION TP

(Marvel APR190976 \$39.99)

Marvel's foray into the funny is collected in this volume that includes *Not Brand Echh* (1967) #s 1-13, *Not Brand Echh* (2017) #14, and more. Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Gene Colan, Marie Severin, Roy Thomas—they're all in here, plus more!

FYI: : Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #159

(TwoMorrows MAR192052 \$9.95)

Pete Morisi, creator of *Peter Cannon: Thunderbolt*, offers a look inside the Charlton era—and a glimpse into his creative process.

AMERICAN COMIC BOOK CHRONICLES: 1940-44 HC

(TwoMorrows FEB192024 \$44.95)

The first great era in comics history unfolds in this landmark history by Kurt Mitchell & Roy Thomas. Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Captain Marvel, Captain America—they're all in here, and many more!

THE ART OF ROY G. KRENKEL: FATHER OF HEROIC FANTASY HC

(IDW JAN190862 \$59.99)

One of the greatest illustrators of the 20th century... the man who taught Frank Frazetta... the inveterate "doodler" who covered every available piece of paper with

remarkable drawings of fantasy realms and wondrous heroes... This volume, produced in conjunction with the Krenkel estate, celebrates the life and work of one of fantasy's finest illustrators, a veteran of the EC bullpen, and the man who helped to reintroduce the world to the wonders of Edgar Rice Burroughs and Robert E. Howard with his striking illustrations and covers.

BACK ISSUE #113

(TwoMorrows MAR192053 \$8.95)

Back Issue celebrates Tim Burton's *Batman*'s 30th anniversary, featuring a guest column and interview with Batfilms producer Michael Uslan, an interview with screenwriter Sam Hamm, and much more.

Larry Hama

Conversations

Edited by Christopher Irving



LARRY HAMA: CONVERSATIONS TP

(University Press of Mississippi MAR192060 \$25.00)

the multi-talented writer, editor, and illustrator who helped to make *GI Joe* a comics favorite is the focus of this collection of interviews.

MASTERS OF COMICS HC

(Insight APR191792 \$45.00)

Masters of Comics offers a rare, personal look at these artists' unique creative environments—spaces in which some of the greatest comics and graphic novels of the last 50 years took shape. This volume includes chapters on Milo Manara, Mike Kaluta, Walter Simonson, and more.

THE STAN LEE STORY HC

(Taschen APR191956 \$200.00)

Previously available only available as a \$1,500 limited edition, this massive celebration of Stan Lee's life, compiled and composed by his friend and long-time collaborator Roy Thomas, explores Lee's history in comics, his personal life, his accomplishments, and much more.



Hot Commodities: June's Best Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN BLACK & WHITE STATUE: WHITE KNIGHT JOKER BY MURPHY

(DC NOV180600 \$80.00)

Just in time for the upcoming *Batman: Curse of the White Knight*, DC brings Sean Murphy's Joker into the third dimension with this eye-catching statue.



DC DESIGNER SERIES SUPERGIRL BY STANLEY LAU STATUE

(DC NOV180595 \$150.00)

This 12.5" statue based on a piece from renowned artist Stanley "Artgerm" Lau features Supergirl dressed in a fan-favorite alternate—and more casual—take on her classic costume.

MARVEL COMICS AVENGERS SERIES VISION ARTFX+ STATUE

(Kotobukiya NOV182546 \$119.99)

Adi Granov supplies the design for this 1:10 scale sculpture of Marvel's synthezoid member of the Avengers. The statue portrays the Vision in flight, making it a perfect match for the previously released Scarlet Witch statue in the same series.

MARVEL PREMIERE MYSTIQUE STATUE

(Diamond Select FEB192446 \$150.00)

Raven Darkholme, aka Mystique, joins the Marvel Premier Collection with this gorgeous statue, hand-sculpted by Clayburn Moore. Standing approximately 11" tall, this detailed piece is limited to an edition of 3,000 pieces and comes packaged in a full-color, hand-numbered box with a certificate of authenticity.

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CANTO

